CHARLES H. RUSSELL 1408 Marietta Ave. Lancaster, PA 17603-2446 717.391.2840

January 23,2002

Atty. General John Ashcroft US Dept. of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. N. W. Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

Microsoft has been amongst those great American technology companies that have helped America become the world's leader in software. The antitrust case brought against Microsoft three years ago by the Justice Department was certainly a disappointment, however I am pleased to see a settlement was agreed to in this case.

'Unfortunately the settlement has not been satisfactory to some. AntiMicrosoft elements have been attempting to get this settlement removed because
it is deemed not destructive enough to Microsoft. However, the settlement is
good and will create positive changes. The settlement forces Microsoft to
disclose code and interfaces to competitors, a never-before-taken step. With
this information, non-Microsoft firms will be able to design and create more
choices in software for the consumer. For the anti- Microsoft elements this
does not suffice because they would like to see Microsoft face a more
injurious verdict.

The purpose of the case was not to harm Microsoft, but to create more competition. This should be and is reflected in the current settlement. Ending this case now is imperative.

Sincerely, Chorles Ruelle

cc: Senator Rick Santorium